

American students of the subject. In 1932 Commins* attempted to correlate order of birth of males with the age at which they marry. Since the mother's age would increase with additional births, earlier born might tend to marry younger women. The results were not conclusive.

In 1936 Mangus† made a statistical comparison between the conception of an *ideal* husband held by 600 females, mostly single, and the personalities of (a) their respective fathers, (b) next closest male relation, and (c) closest male friend. There was some evidence of correlation between conception of *ideal* husband and social rôle of the father.

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Positive Eugenics

To the Editor, *Eugenics Review*

SIR,—Always interested in positive and in practical eugenics, to which I think we eugenicists give far too little attention, I was very glad to read of Dr. Blacker's admirable suggestions in

* Commins, W. D. (1932). "The marriage age of oldest sons." *J. Soc. Psychol.*, 8, 487-90.

† Mangus, A. R. (1936). "Relationship between the young woman's conception of her intimate male associates and of her ideal husband." *J. Soc. Psychol.*, 7, 403-20.

your April number. May I, however, be allowed to plead for a wider interpretation of eugenic fitness than intelligence alone—or even intelligence with character, parents of superior type and a cleanly, attractive home?

I would suggest that where two or more brothers or sisters were declared by their teachers to be of exceptional intelligence and their influence good in a school, parents should still not be approached unless the children's physique too were at least normal—health, stature, agility, features, sight and hearing, all being taken into consideration, even though some weakness in one only of these points should not necessarily disqualify. I include *features* in this summary because I have always felt that, in a world where Nature—whose Author is God—provides so much beauty for our enjoyment, it is not right that the importance of human beauty—the sublimest of all—should be systematically belittled by most eugenicists.

Could not Dr. Blacker's idea be extended to children of physical excellence, who were normal in all other respects, just as it should be to those of intellectual excellence, normal in other respects? Is it not as desirable to improve the physique of our race as it is to raise the level of intelligence? To my mind, physical, moral and intellectual development are equally important.

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